Measures to protect Indian diplomats

448. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government are contemplating any special measures to protect the Indian diplomats abroad who are facing threat of being killed; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): The security of our Missions and personnel abroad is basically the responsibility of the host Government.

We share specific information regarding threats to the lives of our diplomats abroad with the local authorities and request for special protection which the host Governments usually provide. In some sensitive Missions, where there is continuing threat, the host Governments have provided their own guards on a regular basis.

We have also strengthened various security measures in Missions by providing additional security staff and equipment. The various security measures are constantly under review.

Indian move for settling dispute between the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers

449. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated the move for settling dispute between the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers in 1986;

(b) if so, what has been the outcome thereof; and

(c) what proposals were put forward by the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers for settling the dispute and what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. P. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Government have made efforts for resolving the ethnic crisis by negotiations with the Government of Sri Lanka and the various Sri Lanka Tamil groups. These efforts are continuing.

(c) The Sri Lanka Government had presented a working paper (Draft Framework of Accord and Understanding) in August, 1985 which was to serve as the basis for negotiations towards a political solution. The Tamil United Liberation Front, in December 1985, presented an alternative set of proposals to achieve a political solution. The "Liberation Tigers" have not put forward formal proposal for settling the crisis.

Government are of the view that only a negotiated political solution can bring about an end to the ethnic problem. Government's attempts are aimed at narrowing the gap between the positions of the Government of Sri Lanka and the various Tamil groups in order to facilitate a settlement.

Demand for upgradation of status of Union Territory of Pondicherry

450. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pondicherry Administration has been requesting the Central Government for the past ten years that the Union Territory of Pondicherry may be upgraded and B2 status be given to it; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the said proposal put forward by the Pondicherry Administration based on facts and circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request of the Government of Pondicherry for conferment of B2 status to Pondicherry has been considered on several occasions by Central Government and the proposal could not be agreed to as the population of Pondicherry City was less than 4 lakhs as per 1971 Census which was the eligibility

criterion for conferment of B2 status. It also did not fulfil the other criterion of comparison with the costliness of other B2 Class cities in the zone in which the city is located. The Government of Pondicherry was informed of the decision.

Gangotri mission on Antarctica

451. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the achievements of Gangotri Mission on Antarctica;

(b) what is the latest mission in which it is engaged at present; and

(c) how far the country is benefited by this mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) In Antarctica India has been able to establish a permanent station, Dakshin Gangotri, equipped wtih all necessary living and working facilities. India has been able to collect scientific information on geology, glaciology, meteorology, oceanography and biology of polar region. We have set up communication facilities through HF and satellite links between Dakshin Gangotri and India.

(b) The fifth expedition is at present in Antarctica. The scientific works in the field of biology, geology, glaciology and meteorology are being continued The expedition is also engaged in locating a site for the construction of an alternate building.

(c) Several benefits have accrued to India by virtue of Antarctic expeditions. India has been admitted as a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty and a full member of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. Our country has been able to exchange information between the Antarctic Treaty members and members of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. India has been able to develop a team of persons fully acclaimatised for the extreme cold conditions. India has also acquired expertise in operating vehicles, navigating in cold and unknown terrains and in developing a variety of equipment ideally suited for Antarctic conditions.

Submission of draft of extradition treaty to U.K.

452. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the legal aspects of the U. K. offer to extend the provision of U. K. Suppression of Terrorism Act to India to deal effectively with the problem of terrorism;

(b) whether Government have also presented a draft of an extradition treaty to the U. K. Government to enable it to obtain extradition of terrorists from that country who have committed offences in India; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of U.K. Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) The response of the U. K. Government is awaited.

Differences between India and US on the memorandum of understanding

453. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state·

(a) whether differences between India and U. S. have cropped up on interpretation of memorandum of understanding on transfer of new technology to India signed between the two countries sometime back;

(b) whether it is a fact that US ha refused to give licence for export of super computer to be used in India in various fields; and

(c) if so, what are the details of such differences?